Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for representing files, the method comprising:

using a processor to receive receiving an identification of a plurality of groups of files, the groups of files to be represented by a plurality of stack icons, which are stored in a system memory that is connected to the processor by a system bus;

counting a number of files in each group of files to determine how many files are in each group, wherein the plurality of groups of files includes groups having a range of numbers of files from a largest number of files to a smallest number of files;

dividing the plurality of groups of files by size into three equal fractions of groups of files,

(1) wherein each one of the three fractions includes a number of groups of files that is equal to one-third of the plurality of groups of files;

(2) wherein a smallest third of the plurality of groups includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in a smallest third of the range of numbers of files;

(3) wherein a medium third of the plurality of groups includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in a medium third of the range of numbers of files; and

(4) wherein a largest third of the plurality of groups includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in a largest third of the range of numbers of files;

assigning a stack icon to each of the three equal fractions, the stack icon being selected from the plurality of stack icons,

(1) wherein the plurality of stack icons comprise three predefined stack icons, which include a large-stack icon, a medium-stack icon, and a small-stack icon, and

(2) wherein the large-stack icon is assigned to the largest third of the plurality of groups, the medium-stack icon is assigned to the medium third of the plurality of groups, and the small-stack icon is assigned to the smallest third of the plurality of groups; and

retrieving each of the large-stack icon, the medium-stack icon, and the small-stack icon from the system memory and causing each of the large-stack icon, the medium-stack icon, and the small-stack icon to be displayed on a display device as visual representations of the plurality of groups of files.

~~determining a stack size for each of the stack icons, wherein the stack size of a stack icon corresponds to the number of individual files that are represented by the stack icon and wherein the plurality of stack sizes comprise a range from a smallest stack size to a largest stack size;~~

~~dividing the stack icons based on size into equal fractions, wherein the equal fractions comprise an equal number of stack icons and wherein the equal fractions comprise a largest stack size fraction comprising largest stack sizes, one or more medium stack size fractions comprising medium stack sizes, and a smallest stack size fraction comprising smallest stack sizes;~~

~~assigning each of the stack icons in the largest stack size fraction a predefined largest stack icon;~~

~~assigning each of the stack icons in the smallest stack size fraction a predefined smallest stack icon;~~

~~assigning each of the one or more medium stack size fractions a predefined medium stack icon, wherein if stack icons have been divided into more than one medium stack size fraction, each medium stack size fraction of the plurality of medium stack size fractions is assigned a predefined medium stack icon, which differs in size from all other predefined icons and is proportional to the medium stack size fraction's relative position in the range; and~~

~~displaying each stack icon's assigned predefined stack icon as a representation of the stack icon.~~

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising storing an empty stack icon that displays an image distinct from other icons in the plurality of predefined stack icons.

4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled).

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising selecting the empty stack icon when displaying a stack in the retrieving of the predefined stack icon if the determined stack size is zero.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating different stack icons to represent files in different distinct libraries, wherein each of said different stack icons displays information representative of the content of the files in the distinct library.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each the retrieved stack icon visually identifies a file type of the plurality of files.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 9, wherein the visual identification of file type is a persistent overlay on the icon.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the said retrieved stack icons includes a thumbnail image displaying contents of one of the plurality of files.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer storage readable medium storing the computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium having computer-executable instructions embodied thereon that, when executed, cause a computing device to perform a method for representing a plurality of files, the method comprising:

using a processor to receive an identification of a plurality of groups of files, the groups of files to be represented by a plurality of stack icons, which are stored in a system memory that is connected to the processor by a system bus;

counting a number of files in each group of files to determine how many files are in each group, wherein the plurality of groups of files includes groups having a range of numbers of files from a largest number of files to a smallest number of files;

dividing the plurality of groups of files by size into three equal fractions of groups of files,

(1) wherein each one of the three fractions includes a number of groups of files that is equal to one-third of the plurality of groups of files;

(2) wherein a smallest third of the plurality of groups includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in a smallest third of the range of numbers of files;

(3) wherein a medium third of the plurality of groups includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in a medium third of the range of numbers of files; and

(4) wherein a largest third of the plurality of groups includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in a largest third of the range of numbers of files;

assigning a stack icon to each of the three equal fractions, the stack icon being selected from the plurality of stack icons,

(1) wherein the plurality of stack icons comprise three predefined stack icons, which include a large-stack icon, a medium-stack icon, and a small-stack icon, and

(2) wherein the large-stack icon is assigned to the largest third of the plurality of groups, the medium-stack icon is assigned to the medium third of the plurality of groups, and the small-stack icon is assigned to the smallest third of the plurality of groups; and

retrieving each of the large-stack icon, the medium-stack icon, and the small-stack icon from the system memory and causing each of the large-stack icon, the medium-stack icon, and the small-stack icon to be displayed as visual representations of the plurality of groups of files.

~~receiving an identification of a plurality of files to be represented by a stack icon;~~

~~determining a stack size for the plurality of files, wherein the stack size corresponds to the number of individual files in the plurality of files;~~

~~identifying a library with which said plurality of files are associated, said library comprising stored files of a common type, said type being one of word processing, image, address list contacts, and audio;~~

~~selecting, for representation of the plurality of files, a predefined stack~~

~~icon from a plurality of predefined stack icons associated with said library,~~

~~wherein the plurality of predefined stack icons comprise:~~

~~(1) a largest stack icon for representing pluralities of files with a~~

~~stack size either including or above a minimum number, wherein~~

~~the minimum number is a floor figure for the largest stack icon;~~

~~(2) a second smallest stack icon for representing pluralities of files~~

~~with a stack size above two and either including or below a~~

~~maximum number, wherein the maximum number is a ceiling~~

~~figure for the second smallest stack icon; and~~

~~(3) one or more medium stack icons for representing pluralities of~~

~~files with a stack size both above the maximum number and below~~

~~the minimum number; and~~

~~displaying the selected predefined stack icon for representation of the~~

~~plurality of files.~~

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently Amended) The <u>computer storage medium</u> ~~method~~ of claim 13,
<u>wherein the method</u> further<u> comprises</u> ~~comprising~~ generating a unique empty stack icon
representing a stack having no files.

16-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium method of claim 15, further comprising selecting the empty stack icon in response to a user request to display a stack having no files.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium method of claim 13, further comprising the step of adding an overlay to each stack icon said generated icon, said overlay identifying a property of the files represented by the generated icon.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium method of claim 13, wherein said step of retrieving generating further includes the step of including a thumbnail in one or more of the [[said]] stack icons, said thumbnail depicting contents of one of said plurality of files.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A system for representing a selected stack of files, the system comprising:

a processor that is usable to receive an identification of a plurality of groups of files, the groups of files to be represented by a plurality of default stack icons, which are stored in a system memory that is connected to the processor by a system bus;

a computer storage medium having computer-executable instructions embodied thereon that, when executed, cause a computing device to:

(1) count a number of files in each group of files to determine how many files are in each group, wherein the plurality of groups of

files includes a range of numbers of files from a largest number of

files to a smallest number of files;

(2) divide the plurality of groups of files by size into three equal

fractions of groups of files,

      a) wherein each one of the three fractions includes a

      number of groups of files that is equal to one-third of the

      plurality of groups of files;

      b) wherein a smallest third of the plurality of groups

      includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in

      a smallest third of the range of numbers of files;

      c) wherein a medium third of the plurality of groups

      includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in

      a medium third of the range of numbers of files; and

      d) wherein a largest third of the plurality of groups

      includes groups of files that have numbers of files falling in

      a largest third of the range of numbers of files;

(3) assign a stack icon to each of the three equal fractions, the

stack icon being selected from the plurality of stack icons,

      a) wherein the plurality of stack icons comprise three

      predefined stack icons, which include a large-stack icon, a

      medium-stack icon, and a small-stack icon, and

      b) wherein the large-stack icon is assigned to the largest

      third of the plurality of groups, the medium-stack icon is

assigned to the medium third of the plurality of groups, and

the small-stack icon is assigned to the smallest third of the

plurality of groups; and

(4) retrieve each of the large-stack icon, the medium-stack icon,

and the small-stack icon from the system memory and cause each

of the large-stack icon, the medium-stack icon, and the small-stack

icon to be displayed as visual representations of the plurality of

groups of files.

~~one or more computer-readable media storing sets of default stack icons,~~

~~each stored set of default stack icons representing and portraying information~~

~~representative of the content of a corresponding library, wherein each stored set of~~

~~default stack icons includes multiple icons, each included icon representing a~~

~~range of stack sizes;~~

~~one or more computer-readable media storing computer-executable~~

~~instructions that cause a computer to perform the following:~~

~~determine a stack size of a selected plurality of files and a library to which~~

~~the selected files belong, wherein the stack size corresponds to the number of~~

~~individual files that form the plurality of files;~~

~~compare the stack size to a plurality of stack-size boundaries that divide a~~

~~stack size range into three or more sub-ranges, said stack-size boundaries being~~

~~assigned to the library to which the selected files belong;~~

~~select a default stack icon that has been assigned to a sub-range that~~

~~includes the stack size; and~~

~~display the default stack icon with a common property overlay, wherein the common property overlay comprises an additional icon indicating a common property of all files in the plurality of files and wherein the common property overlay is displayed within the boundaries of the default stack icon.~~

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[24]] 23, said plurality of stack icons further comprising a unique empty stack icon that displays a distinct image.

26.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, said ~~first one or more~~ computer storage medium ~~computer-readable media~~ further storing a set of property based icons for at least one library, wherein the property based icons include an overlay indicating a common property of files represented by an underlying stack icon.

27.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 23, said computer-executable instructions further comprising instructions for generating a set of custom thumbnail icons for at least one selected library, wherein the custom thumbnail icons include at least one image from a stack within the at least one selected library.

28.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 23, said computer-executable instructions further comprising instructions for counting the number of files in a selected stack and displaying the number adjacent to or on the icon.

29.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 10, wherein said overlay is a symbol provided by an application that owns the file type.

30.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 20, wherein said property in said overlay identifies an application that owns the file type.

31.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 30, wherein said overlay is provided by the application that owns the file type.

32.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 13, wherein said one or more medium stack icons comprise a second largest stack icon and wherein said second smallest stack icon comprises a third largest stack icon.